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Security Council

Distr.: General
11 December 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

06-65323 (E) 151206

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the entry into force of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the entry into force on 12 November 2006 of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, annexed to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

In conflict areas, people continue to be killed or injured by unexploded and abandoned explosive ordnance even after the end of hostilities. The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War addresses the post-conflict humanitarian threat generated by conventional munitions, including cluster munitions, that do not explode as intended or that are abandoned. The Protocol's requirements include the marking, clearance, removal and destruction of such remnants of war by the party in control of the territory in which the munitions are located.

The Protocol is a multilaterally negotiated instrument of international humanitarian law and relevant for arms control. The European Union calls upon all States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols, which strengthen international humanitarian law and help to protect civilians against the effects of hostilities.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate country the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning Côte d'Ivoire, issued on 10 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

06-65317 (E) 151206

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement concerning Côte d'Ivoire issued on 10 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the fact that by adopting Security Council resolution 1721 (2006), the international community has unanimously outlined a framework that will enable Côte d'Ivoire to emerge from the current crisis. The resolution was a product of the recommendations by the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, and the European Union emphasizes that it is fully binding on all Ivorian parties, who may not invoke any provision of law in order to obstruct the peace process.

The European Union welcomes the intention expressed by the Prime Minister in his speech on 8 November to take possession of all the means available to him under resolution 1721 (2006) in order to perform the mandate with which he is charged. The European Union urges all Ivorian parties to give the Prime Minister the support he needs to bring the peace and reconciliation process to a successful conclusion. It condemns the declarations opposing the framework outlined by the Security Council and issues a warning against any initiative likely to violate it.

Conscious of their weariness and distress in the face of the continuing crisis, the European Union once again expresses its solidarity with the Ivorian people. It shares their rejection of violence and intimidation.

The European Union calls on the United Nations to impose targeted sanctions without delay, in particular against anyone who obstructs by whatever means the process of peace and reconciliation.

The European Union welcomes the decision to entrust the task of mediation to the Congolese President, Sassou Nguesso, in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Union and reiterates its support for the International Working Group in its role as guarantor and impartial arbitrator of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.

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Letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the "referendum" and the "presidential elections" in South Ossetia, Georgia, on 12 November 2006, issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

06-65336 (E) 151206

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the "referendum" and the "presidential elections" in South Ossetia, Georgia, on 12 November 2006, issued on 13 November 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is aware that a "referendum" and "presidential elections" have taken place in the South Ossetian region of Georgia on 12 November 2006. The "referendum" contradicts Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union considers that the situation in South Ossetia did not allow for a free expression of the popular will. Recalling its statement at the Permanent Council of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe on 9 November, the European Union reiterates that it does not recognize the "referendum" or its outcome. The same applies to the "presidential elections" in South Ossetia, Georgia.

The European Union fully supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union considers that the referendum and the elections did not contribute to efforts for peaceful conflict resolution. It calls on all parties to the conflict to strictly respect existing agreements and to return immediately to the negotiating table in order to work towards a speedy and transparent solution of the South Ossetian conflict.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.